

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011



Packing House Road Mitigation Site
Beaufort County
TIP No. R-2510B
COE Action ID #: 199301143
DWQ Project #: 20050785
DCM Permit #: 29-07



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June 2011

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SUMMARY

The Packing House Road Mitigation Site is located in Beaufort County on Packing House road adjacent to the US 17 Washington Bypass. The site was planted on January 22, 2011, and was designed as mitigation for wetland impacts associated with roadway project R-2510B Washington Bypass.

The mitigation encompasses approximately 0.1 acres of wetland restoration and 3.5 acres of preservation. The restoration effort involved grading the property to an elevation that approximates the adjacent wetlands, and then ripping to promote vegetation re-establishment. The site was then planted and will be monitored to ensure that it meets the vegetation success criteria. No hydrologic monitoring is required for this project; however, vegetation monitoring is required for three years.

After the first year of monitoring, the Packing House Road Mitigation Site shows by visual observation that the planted species are surviving; with the only exception being the area that was disturbed by vehicular trespass. Guardrails have been installed at both ends of the project to prevent further site disturbance. NCDOT will replant the area where the seedlings were disturbed.

NCDOT proposes to continue vegetation monitoring at the Packing House Road Mitigation Site in 2012.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

The Packing House Road Mitigation Site is located in Beaufort County on Packing House road adjacent to the US 17 Washington Bypass. The site consists of approximately 0.1 acres of wetland restoration for wetland impacts associated with project R-2510B.

1.2 Purpose

In order for a mitigation site to be considered successful, a site must meet vegetation success criteria. This report details the vegetation monitoring in 2011 at the Packing House Road Mitigation Site. Hydrologic monitoring was not required for the site.

1.3 Project History

January 2011	Site Planted
June 2011	Vegetation Monitoring (1 year)

1.4 Debit Ledger

The entire Packing House Road Mitigation site was used for the R-2510B project to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts.

2.0 VEGETATION: PACKING HOUSE ROAD MITIGATION SITE (YEAR 1 MONITORING)

2.1 Success Criteria

Success Criteria states that the Packing House Road mitigation site shall be monitored for three years. The NCDOT shall submit an annual summary report at the end of each of the first two years after the completion of the project. The report shall discuss the sites vegetative and hydrologic changes. This report can be qualitative in nature, and is in lieu of the usual quantitative hydrology and success criteria. At the end of the third year after project completion, the NCDOT will coordinate a field visit to the site, at which time the DWQ will determine the success of the mitigation, and the site may be declared successful with written approval from the NC Division of Water Quality. If, at the end of the three year monitoring period, the NC Division of Water Quality feels that the success cannot be determined or has not been achieved, then the NCDOT will coordinate field visits on an annual basis until the NCDWQ is satisfied that the site is successful.

2.2 Description of Species

The following wetland species were planted in the Wetland Restoration Area:

Taxodium distichum, Baldcypress

Nyssa aquatica, Water Tupelo

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Green Ash

2.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

The wetland restoration area where Packing House Road was removed is re-attaining wetland jurisdictional status. Planted species noted surviving included green ash, water tupelo, and baldcypress. A few of the seedlings that were planted in January 2011 were not surviving due to vehicular trespass. Guardrails have been installed at both ends of the project to prevent further site disturbance. NCDOT will replant the area where the seedlings were disturbed.

2.4 Conclusions

There were approximately 0.1 acres total of wetland restoration on site. There were no plots established on the site. By visual observation, the Packing House Road Mitigation Site shows that the restoration area is re-attaining wetland jurisdictional status and the planted species are surviving except for the area that was disturbed by the vehicular trespass. NCDOT will replant the area where the seedlings were disturbed.

3.0 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following report summarizes the monitoring activities that have occurred in the past year for the Packing House Road Mitigation Site. Monitoring activities in 2011 represent the first year of monitoring for the site. The site must demonstrate vegetation success for a minimum of three years or until the site is deemed successful.

NCDOT proposes to replant the disturbed area and continue vegetation monitoring at the Packing House Road Mitigation Site in 2012.

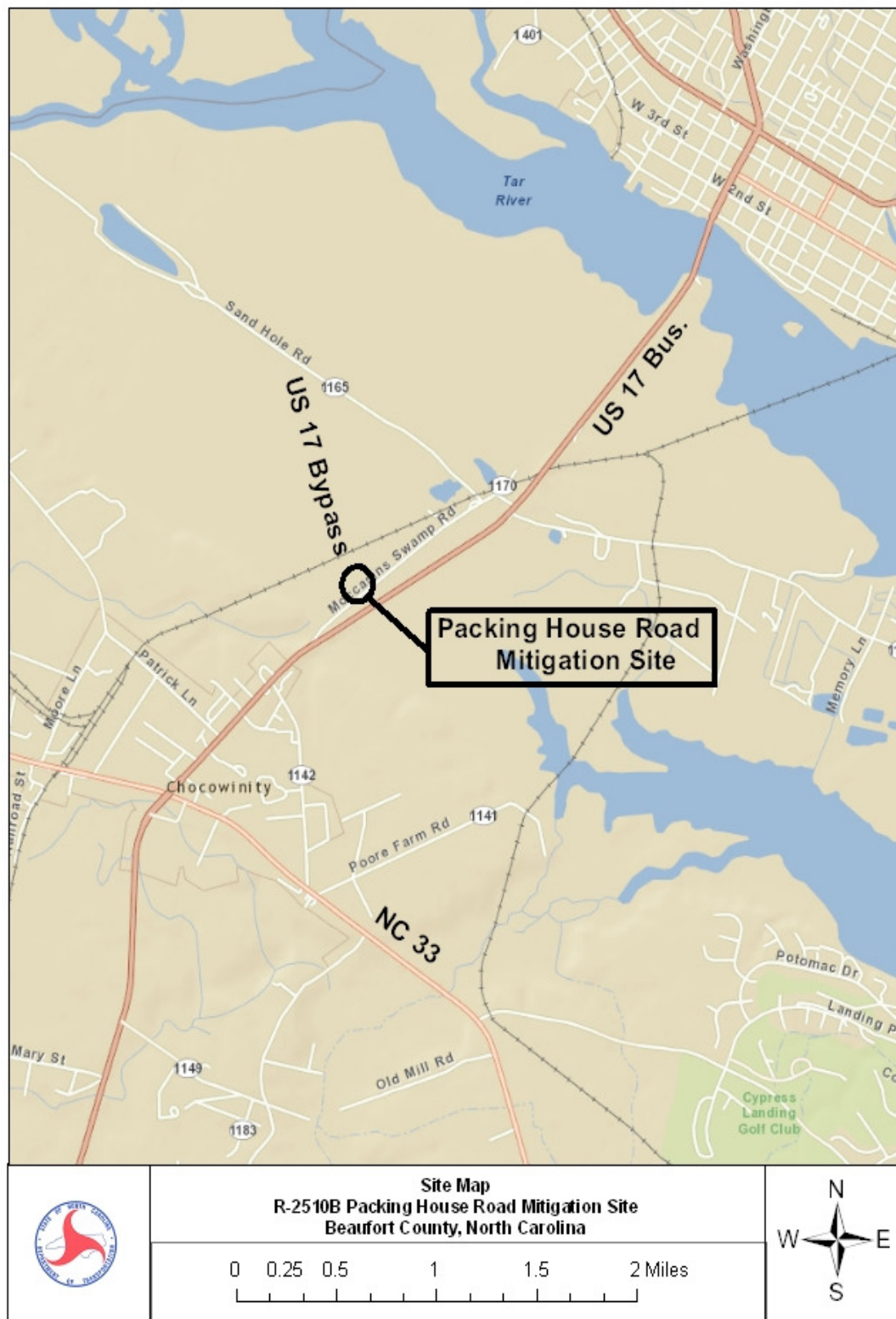
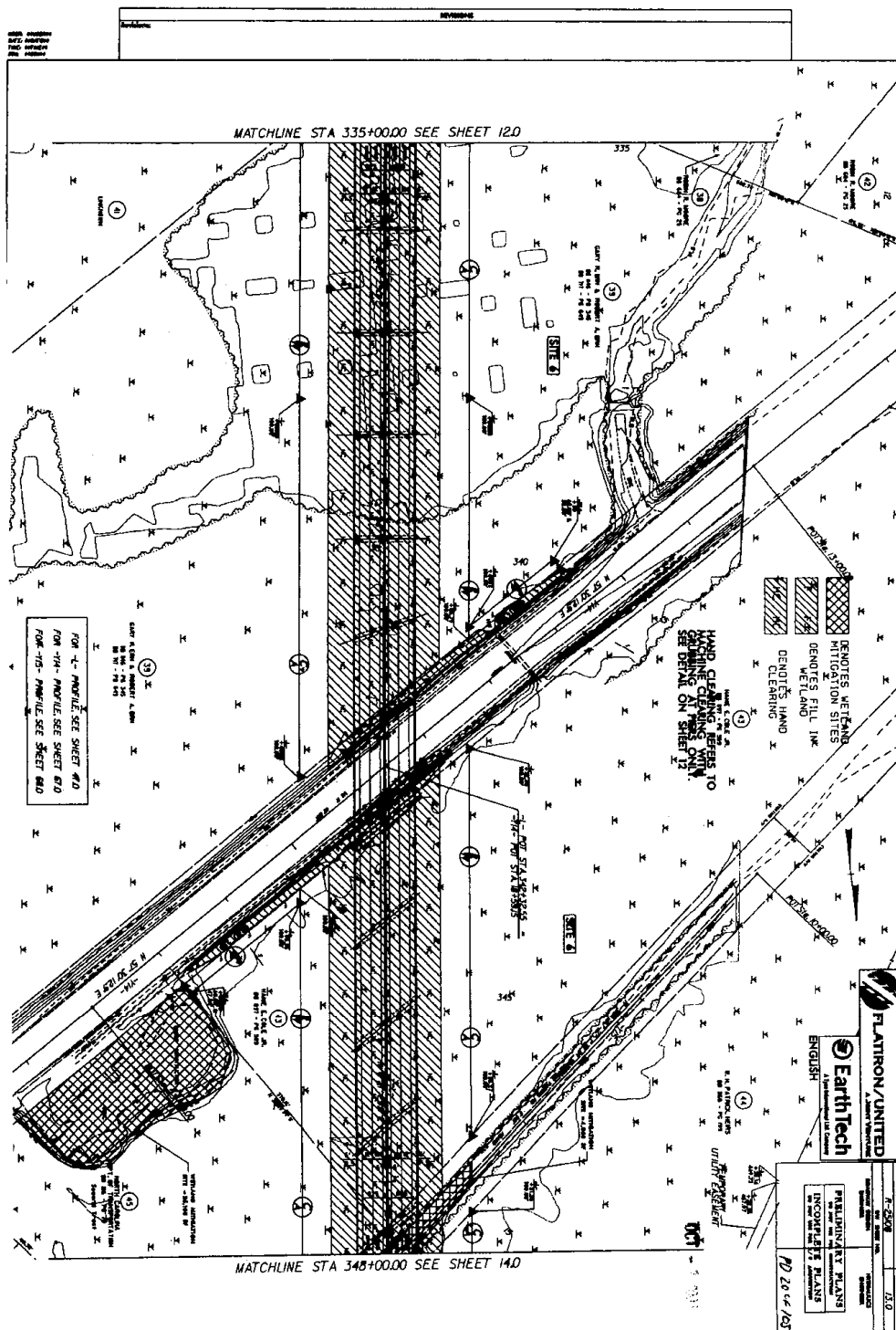


Figure 1. Site Location Map



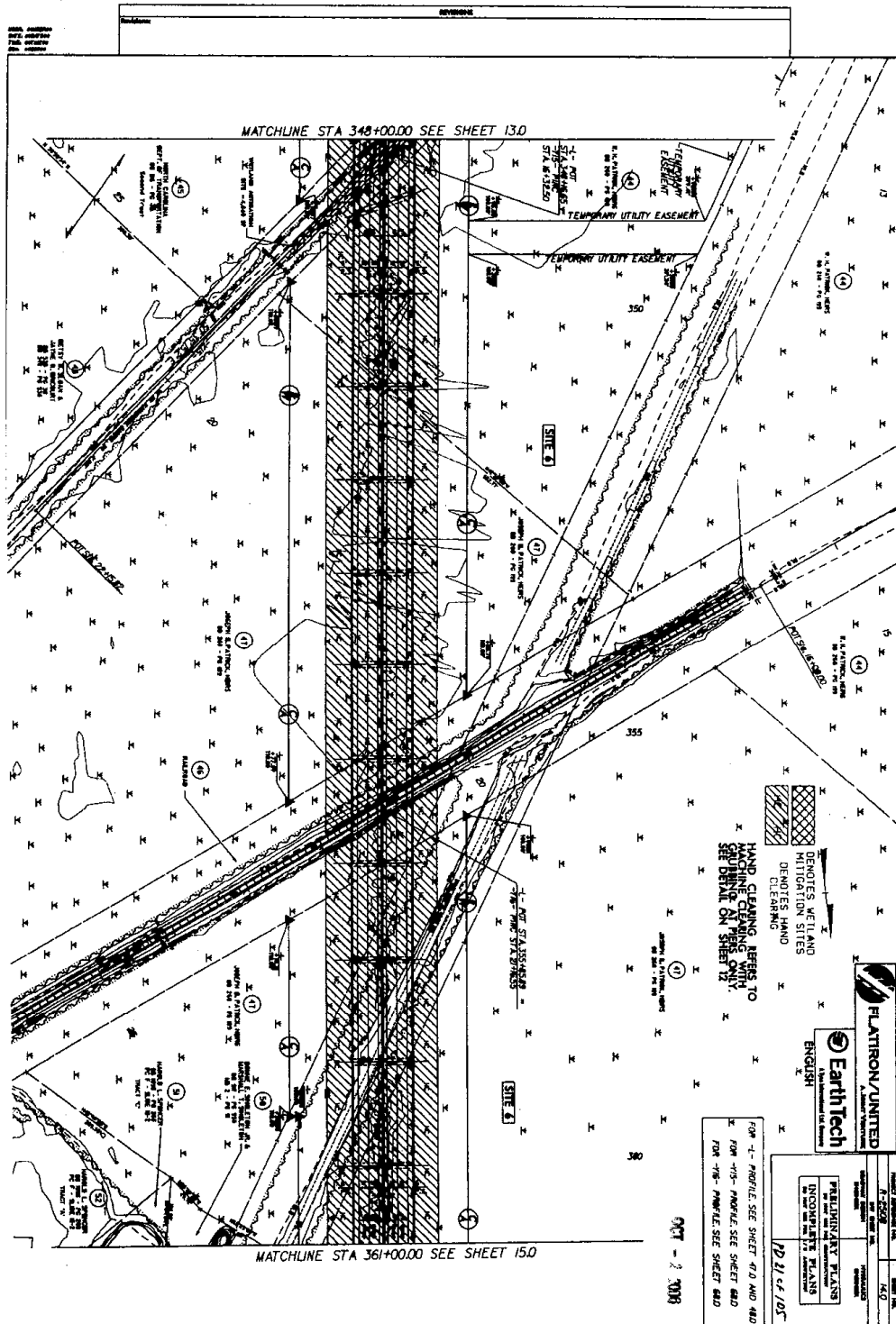


Figure 3. Permit Drawing

APPENDIX A

SITE PHOTOS

Packing House Road Mitigation Site



Photo 1 looking south @ US 17 Bypass



Photo 2 looking north @ US 17 Bypass